

2003 Report of Accomplishments

Adams Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2002-03 - Summary

- Conservation enhancement accomplishments within 4 WRIA's returned a diverse range of water, air and soil quality achievements.
- 1. Establishing a county wide "Fecal Base Line Study", a "Palouse River Scoping" project and a "Cow Creek Implementation" for DOE .
- 2. Providing technical assistance for accomplishing stream improvements within Cow Creek through fencing, off site water and riparian plantings for various portions of a 38 mile length of watershed area.
- 3. Construction of 3 wildlife guzzler installations, 7 sediment retention structures and one grassed waterway in addition to solar well development project.
- 4. Providing a administrative coordination effort for a 6-county "Direct Seed Minimum Tillage" concept study for the CP3 program.
- 5. Interacting with WRIA 34, 43 watershed planning efforts including participation with the 3- county "Ground Water Management Area"(GWMA) and Big Bend RC&D meetings to coordinate the districts issues & environmental concerns including soil sampling and Irrigation Water monitoring for over 50 fields.



Mission of the Adams Conservation District

- The Adams Conservation District promotes the enhancement of the natural environment and provides technical assistance to develop a positive relationship toward achieving that goal.

Water Quality Implementation

- Distribution of funds within 4 WRIA's requires a prioritization between dry land-irrigation and-range conservation concerns, while recognizing the diversity associated within each agriculture sector of responsibility.
- "Off site" water needs for 15 cooperators within the 280,000 acre Cow Creek drainage area has become a primary focal point for addressing some of the larger animal feeding operations on a tributary, that impacts water into a river currently listed on the 303d list. This off site water effort is a "first defensive posturing line" needed to begin fencing and riparian enhancement projects that will inevitably restrict 1000's of beef animals and improve upland wildlife that exist within this watershed.
- The installation of sediment containment structures or grassed waterway systems restricts the passage of sediment to the local lakes and streams. –

Basic Funding

- The district maintains construction equipment, trucks and equipment in support for accomplishing local environmental tasks.
- Providing the technical assistance including trained employees to assist the cooperators offers the producers that additional incentive to achieve the conservation goals.

Local Funding

- Most local funding is provided directly by the producer directly interested in meeting the conservation goals, however liaison between the district, Fish & Wildlife, WSU or NRCS through EQIP, WHIP or CRP programs provides additional incentive to achieve basic water conservation goals.
- This district has one of the states largest CRP commitments yet the producers sometimes do not have the time to install wildlife guzzlers or vegetative cover specifically required to meet federal specifications. The district assists in this task when requested to do so. The off site water site selections require exploratory labor, and local equipment. The district can provide that resource when requested.

Professional Engineering

- *The Adams CD has received engineering assistance to develop a stream bank protection plan for one producer within the Palouse River watershed. One animal feeding operation has received engineering assistance for sediment containment construction plans.*

Dairy

- *There is only one dairy within this conservation district belonging to the Huttarian commune and that plan was among the first completed within the Columbia Basin Area during the very early stages of dairy planning phase. Dairy planning has been conducted by the partnership efforts through the Upper Grant, Othello, Warden and Moses Lake CD partnership due to economics.*

Irrigation Efficiencies

- *This district provided funding assistance for one gated pipe installation, which was incorporated with the transition to pivot irrigation from rill for one producer. This particular property was an odd shaped field requiring a special modification to equally distribute irrigation water to eliminate sediment flow.*
- *An Irrigation Water Monitoring program is offered to the district producers. 18 pivot circles were monitored this past season by district employees.*

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *The fish & wildlife in conjunction with local producers have been assisting with wildlife habitat plantings throughout the district in support of CRP grass stands and woody vegetation requirements as set forth within the compliance standards associated with CRP contracts.*
- *This conservation district provides a fabric-mulching positioning machine to assist the producer in developing a mulch layer to protect young plants from weed invasions while offering a moisture protective barrier.*

Small Farm Programs

- *There are a very limited number of “small” farms located within this district, however three cooperators have inquired about the development of windbreaks within the past year..*

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *This agriculture community has required coordination between several local agencies such as the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, WSU cooperative extension, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, Soil & Water Conservation Society, the Adams County Water Conservancy Board, DNR, BLM, Fish & Wildlife and the Big Bend RC&D and numerous other local interest groups.*
- *Providing a variety of equipment rental options combined with technical assistance support that offer both irrigators, dry land producers and beef production interests equal consideration for conservation enhancement opportunities.*

Information & Education

- *FFA soil judging, 5th grade field day and 6th grade essay programs offer local schools an opportunity to gain knowledge associated to conservation efforts of the local community.*
- *The Ritzville FFA chapter has frequently achieved National recognition from activities initially developed within the local area. A cooperative effort between local schools and the Conservation District continually show these results.*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

